



Department of State

TELEGRAM

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AN: D800368-0047

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ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 IO-14 ADS-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 PM-07 H-01 INR-10
-03 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 SSN-02 SM-01 /090
-----006774 010321Z /608

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FM AMEMBASSY KABUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7919
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY BEIJING
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
AMEMBASSY Dacca
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL KARACHI
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USICA WASHDC IMMEDIATE
CINCEUR VAIHNGEN GE
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/ME

REVIEWED by *L. Kelly* DATE *8/14/89*
() RELEASE () DECLASSIFY
() EXEMPT () DECLASSIFY in PART
() DENY () Non-responsive info.
POL. DO or PA exemptions

TS authority to:
() CLASSIFY as _____, OADB
() DOWNGRADE TS to () S or () C, OADB

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KARACHI ALSO FOR RSS; CINCEUR AND CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLADS

E.O. 12065: GDS 7/31/86 (GRIFFIN, GEORGE G. S.) OR-M
TAGS: ASEC PEPR PINS PINT SHUM AF
SUBJECT: SITUATION IN AFGHANISTAN

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REF: KABUL 2222 ✓

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1. (C - ENTIRE TEXT)

2. SUMMARY: WORD OF A MAJOR SOVIET ANTI-INSURGENT OFFENSIVE IN WARDAK IS REACHING KABUL ALONG WITH GROWING NUMBERS OF REFUGEES FROM THAT PROVINCE. THE NEWS FROM GHAZNI AND WARDAK PROVINCES OVER THE PAST TWO DAYS HAS MADE THAT SITUATION EVEN MURKIER, ALTHOUGH ALMOST ALL ACCOUNTS AGREE THAT PART OF THE 14TH DIVISION DEFECTED. SOVIET MILITARY CONVOYS CONTINUE TO MOVE IN AND OUT OF THE CITY, BUT THE LEVEL OF HELICOPTER ACTIVITY HAS DROPPED. ONE OF THE EFFECTS OF THE FIGHTING IS AN URSURGE IN CASUALTIES AMONG CHILDREN. MORE SOVIET OFFICERS ARE REPORTED ASSASSINATED IN KABUL. SOURCES WITH CONTACTS IN HERAT AND KANDAHAR REPORT AN INTENSIFICATION OF TROUBLES IN THOSE CITIES IN RECENT DAYS. END SUMMARY.

3. EMBASSY CONTACTS ARE REPORTING A GROWING NUMBER OF REFUGEES COMING INTO THE CITY FROM WARDAK PROVINCE SOUTHWEST OF KABUL DESPITE STRONG SOVIET AND AFGHAN CHECKPOINTS DESIGNED TO BLOCK SUCH MOVEMENT. THE REFUGEES ARE CLAIMING THAT A MAJOR SOVIET ANTI-INSURGENT OFFENSIVE IS UNDERWAY IN WARDAK. (AFGHAN TROOPS ARE ALSO SAID TO BE INVOLVED.) SEVERAL SOURCES AND ENBOFFS HAVE SEEN HUNDREDS OF RAGGED, DIRTY VILLAGERS SQUATTING ALONG THROUGHFARES IN THE CENTER OF THE CITY. MOST CLAIM TO BE FROM WARDAK, ALTHOUGH SOME SAY THEY CAME FROM NEAR CHARIKAR AND OTHER VILLAGES IN THE PAGHMAN MOUNTAINS.

4. TWO FAMILIES RELATED TO AN EMBASSY FSN (WHO IS FROM WARDAK -- PROTECT) TOLD HIM THAT THEY FLED TWO DAYS AGO FROM HEAVY SOVIET AIR ATTACKS, FOLLOWED BY HOUSE-TO-HOUSE SEARCHES BY AFGHAN AND LATER SOVIET TROOPS. THEY ALLEGED

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THAT THE SOVIET TROOPS WERE COMMITTING ATROCITIES (PUTTING OUT THE EYES OF MALE VILLAGERS AND RAPING WOMEN), BUT THE FSN DID NOT BELIEVE THEM. HE WAS PREPARED TO ACCEPT THEIR CHARGE THAT THE TROOPS WERE SETTING FIRE TO RECENTLY HARVESTED GRAIN, HOWEVER. THE FAMILIES CAME FROM THE SHNEEZ VALLEY, WHERE THEY CLAIMED THAT OVER 900 PEOPLE WERE KILLED IN HELICOPTER BOMBING RAIDS ON THE VILLAGES OF SIRAK, AFTASIA, BAGHAK, VOLKHI AND GURBUT. THEY DESCRIBED BOMBS WHICH BURST INTO GREENISH FLAMES, THE SMOKE FROM WHICH WAS PAINFUL TO BREATHE, SUGGESTING PHOSPHOROUS BOMBS. THE FSN NOTED THAT

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THE VILLAGERS WERE CURSING THE U.S. FOR NOT HELPING THEM AGAINST THE SOVIETS AND OBSERVED THAT THEY WERE EXTREMELY AGITATED AND PRONE TO EXAGGERATION.

5. THE SAME FSN INFORMED EMBOFFS THAT HE HAD LEARNED FROM OTHER SOURCES THAT SOVIET AND AFGHAN TROOPS HAD BROKEN THROUGH A RESISTANCE DEFENSE POINT AT THE BOOM DEFILE (NEAR THE ONAI PASS) AND HAD REACHED HIS FATHER'S VILLAGE ABOUT HALFWAY BETWEEN KOTE ASHROW AND BEHSUD. THEY ADDED THAT SHAIKHABAD, ON THE MAIN KABUL-KANDAHAR ROAD, WAS "FULL" OF SOVIET AND AFGHAN TROOPS AND THAT THERE WAS A LARGE UNIT AT CHAK. THEY REPORTED THAT AFTER A BRIEF INITIAL FIREFIGHT, RESISTANCE FORCES MELTED BEFORE THE SOVIET ONSLAUGHT, CAUSING MUCH DISCOURAGEMENT AMONG LOCAL INHABITANTS.

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6. FRESH VERSIONS OF THE STATUS OF THE 14TH DIVISION IN
GHAZNI HAVE MERELY SERVED TO MUDDY ALREADY MURKY WATERS.
ONE ACCOUNT WHICH PARALLELS OTHERS WE HAVE HEARD INDICATES
THAT THE SOVIETS HAVE MANAGE TO OVERSEE A NEGOTIATED SETTLE-
MENT BETWEEN KHALQI AND PARCHAM OFFICERS WITHOUT HAVING TO
FIRE A SHOT. HOWEVER, THE PURVEYOR OF THIS STORY INSISTS,

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AS DO VIRTUALLY ALL OTHER SOURCES, THAT AT LEAST TWO UNITS
OF THE 14TH DIVISION DEFECTED TO THE RESISTANCE MOVEMENT

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A COUPLE OF WEEKS AGO. (COMMENT: WE MAY NEVER KNOW THE REAL STORY HERE, PARTLY BECAUSE THIS HAS BEEN A SOVIET EXERCISE AND AFGHANS CANNOT FIND OUT MUCH ABOUT IT.)

7. WHATEVER HAS HAPPENED, THE VOLUME OF SOVIET HELICOPTER TRAFFIC IN AND OUT OF KABUL IN THE DIRECTION OF SHAZNI HAS DROPPED CONSIDERABLY. HOWEVER, THE NUMBER OF SOVIET TRUCKS AND ARMORED VEHICLES IN CONVOYS HAS INCREASED SLIGHTLY IN THE SAME PERIOD. A PRIVATE AMERICAN SOURCE (PROTECT) HAS REPORTED A RESUMPTION OF FIGHTING IN HERAT CITY DURING THE PAST THREE DAYS. INDIAN DIPLOMATS SAY THAT THEIR CONSULATE IN KANDAHAR REPORTS FRESH TROUBLES THERE IN RECENT DAYS AS WELL. HOWEVER, REFUGEE AND COMMERCIAL TRUCK TRAFFIC THROUGH KANDAHAR TOWARD THE PAKISTAN BORDER SEEMS TO BE MOVING FREELY.

8. AN INDIAN DOCTOR AT THE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL IN KABUL (STRICTLY PROTECT) TOLD US JULY 30 THAT THE FACILITY HAD ADMITTED A LARGE NUMBER OF CASUALTIES FROM THE RECENT FIGHTING; THE LARGEST INCREASE IN INJURED CHILDREN SINCE THE "GASSINGS" IN KABUL SCHOOLS IN MAY. HE SAID THAT THE HOSPITAL HAD RECEIVED ABOUT 50 CASES A DAY FOR THE PAST THREE DAYS, MOSTLY WITH SHRAPNEL OR GUNSHOT WOUNDS. "DOZENS" OF THE CHILDREN HAD ALSO BEEN ORPHANED IN THE FIGHTING. MOST OF THEM WERE FROM WARDAK PROVINCE.

9. WE HAVE NOT PREVIOUSLY REPORTED SEVERAL STORIES OF THE ASSASSINATION OF SOVIET MILITARY AND CIVILIAN OFFICERS IN KABUL DURING THE PAST WEEK BECAUSE OF CONFLICTING VERSIONS WE HAVE HEARD. HOWEVER, ONE STORY HAS BEEN HEARD FROM ENOUGH DIFFERENT SOURCES NOW TO GIVE IT A RING OF TRUTH. BY MOST ACCOUNTS, A SOVIET CIVILIAN ADVISOR AT THE POLICE ACADEMY WAS.

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GUNNED DOWN IN BROAD DAYLIGHT IN THE KARTE CHAR SECTION OF KABUL LAST WEEK. SOME OF OUR SOURCES NOW SAY THAT THE GUNMEN MISTOOK HIM FOR A SOVIET GENERAL WHO LIVES IN THE SAME AREA. RUMORS CONTINUE TO CIRCULATE THAT AS MANY AS SEVEN SOVIETS HAVE BEEN KILLED, INCLUDING TWO WEARING AFGHAN MILITARY UNIFORMS. GRIFFIN

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